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PREPARATORY COMMITTEE FOR THE
UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE
ON HUMAN SETTLEMENTS
(HABITAT II)
Third session
New York
5-16 February 1996
Item 4 of the provisional agenda
Draft Statement of Principles
and Global Plan of Action

DRAFT STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES AND COMMITMENTS AND GLOBAL PLAN OF ACTION

Reports of the Informal Drafting Group of the Preparatory Committee

Note by the Secretariat

1. In its Decision II/8 the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), at its second substantive session, decided to continue with the review and drafting of the Statement of Principles and Commitments and Global Plan of Action during the inter-sessional period in an open-ended informal group.

2. The Informal Drafting Group held its first inter-sessional meeting at the United Nations Office at Nairobi from 17 to 21 July 1995 and its second inter-sessional meeting in Paris from 9 to 13 October 1995, at the invitation of the Government of France.

3. The reports of these two meetings are attached herewith as Annex 1 and Annex 2 respectively. The draft Statement of Principles and Commitments and Global Plan of Action (The Habitat Agenda) which was prepared by the Informal Drafting Group is contained in document A/CONF.165/PC.3/4.

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Report of the Informal Drafting Group of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) at its first inter-sessional meeting

Nairobi, 17 to 21 July 1995

INTRODUCTION

1. The meeting was convened pursuant to Decision II/8, in which the Preparatory Committee decided to continue with the drafting and review of the "Statement of principles and commitments and Global Plan of Action" during the inter-sessional period in an open-ended informal group.

I. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

A. Opening and duration of the session

2. The open-ended Informal Drafting Group established pursuant to Decision II/8 of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), held its first inter-sessional meeting at the United Nations Office at Nairobi from 17 to 21 July 1995.

3. The meeting was opened by Dr. Glynn A.C. Khonje, Chairman of the open-ended Informal Drafting Group which was established by the Preparatory Committee at its second substantive session.

B. Attendance

4. The following States were represented:

Algeria
Argentina
Bangladesh
Belgium
Brazil
Canada
Chile
China
Colombia
Cuba
Czech Republic
Egypt
Ethiopia
Finland
Germany
Holy See
Hungary
India
Indonesia
Israel
Italy
Japan
Kenya
Malawi
Mexico
Mozambique
Netherlands
Nigeria
Pakistan
Philippines
Poland
Portugal
Republic of Korea
Romania
Russian Federation
Senegal
Spain
Sri Lanka
Sudan
Sweden
Turkey
Uganda
United Republic of Tanzania
United States of America
Venezuela
Zambia
Zimbabwe

5. The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) were represented.

6. The following specialized agencies were represented: the World Bank/International Finance Corporation (IFC).

7. The following intergovernmental organization was represented: Shelter-Afrique.

8. Local Government International Bureau was represented.

9. The following non-governmental organizations were represented: Environment Liaison Centre (ELC), Environnement et Développement du Tiers-monde (ENDA), Habitat International Coalition (HIC), International Association of Students in Economics and Management (Aiesec-Kenya)/Youth for Habitat II.

C. Adoption of the Agenda

10. At its first session on 17 July, the Informal Drafting Group adopted the following agenda:

1. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

2. Draft Global Plan of Action

3. Other matters.

D. Organization of Work

11. The Informal Drafting Group established two working groups to discuss and draft relevant sections of the draft Global Plan of Action (GPA). Working Group I was chaired by Mr. Gibson G. Maina (Kenya) and Working Group II by the Permanent Representative of Pakistan to UNCHS (Habitat), H.E. Mr. Shafqat Kakakhel.

12. Working Group I considered the following sections of the draft Global Plan of Action: Adequate Shelter for All; Capacity-building and Institutional Development; and Assessing Progress and Evaluating Impact.

13. Working Group II considered the following sections of the draft Global Plan of Action: Sustainable Human Settlements Development in an Urbanizing World; and International Cooperation and Coordination.

E. Adoption of the report

14. The present report was adopted by the Informal Drafting Group at its final plenary session on 21 July 1995.

II. DISCUSSIONS

A. Plenary

1. General debate

15. The Informal Drafting Group considered a document entitled Draft Global Plan of Action (A/CONF.165/IM.1/2), prepared by the secretariat in accordance with Decision II/8 of the Preparatory Committee. The document contained four parts. Parts I, II and III, consisting of the Preamble and of the

Goals and Principles and Commitments sections, were the result of the deliberations of the Informal Drafting Group of Working Group II of the second substantive session of the Preparatory Committee, held in Nairobi from 24 April to 5 May 1995. Part IV consisted of a draft strategy for implementation prepared by the secretariat on the basis of the preceding parts.

16. A proposal was made by two delegations to split the document into two separate parts, consisting respectively of a political document containing Parts I, II and III and an action document containing Part IV. The Informal Drafting Group also discussed the title of the entire text to be negotiated in Istanbul. One delegation suggested the title "The Habitat Agenda". Although the matter was deferred for further consideration, many other delegations expressed their approval of this suggestion.

17. Since the structure and content of Part IV had not been discussed during the second substantive session of the Preparatory Committee in the same degree of detail as the first three parts, the Group worked only on Part IV. After consideration of the main structure and contents of this Part, the Informal Drafting Group decided to assign further elaborations on the text to its two working groups. The Informal Drafting Group considered as the basis of this work a draft structure of Part IV prepared by the focal point of the European Union, explicitly structured around the two main themes of the Conference. The Informal Drafting Group adopted this structure on the understanding that the working groups would review it and further develop it by utilizing, where appropriate, concepts and text contained in the draft prepared by the secretariat at the request of the Preparatory Committee.

18. The Informal Drafting Group, after extensive discussion and review, prepared new drafts of section 1 of Part IV (Adequate Shelter for All); section 2 (Sustainable Human Settlements Development in an Urbanizing World); and section 3 (Capacity-Building and Institutional Development).

19. The Informal Drafting Group had an extensive general debate on sections 4 and 5 of Part IV, but was unable to resolve some of the basic issues which arose during the discussion. It therefore decided to revert to those issues at its second inter-sessional meeting. It was further decided that both sections should be forwarded, in their present form, to Governments for their review and comments.

B. Reports of the Working Groups

20. The reports of the two working groups were considered by the Drafting Group in plenary session on 20 and 21 July 1995.

III. ACTION TAKEN

A. Preparation of documents

21. The Informal Drafting Group prepared a revised draft of Part IV of document A/CONF.165/IM.1/2 (draft Global Plan of Action). It noted that the revised text, while not a negotiated draft, was a basis for further consideration.

22. In accordance with decision II/8, the secretariat will forward the revised draft to all Member States. The meeting urged the secretariat to forward the text not later than 7 August 1995 and recommended to Member States to review the revised draft in consultation with their national committees for Habitat II wherever they are active. It also recommended that Member States should prepare and organize their comments with reference to the chapter and section headings of the revised draft.

23. The Informal Drafting Group requested the secretariat to transmit the draft Global Plan of Action to the United Nations organizations and agencies concerned, asking them to provide their comments, including proposed textual changes, on its structure, contents, implementation and review processes, and the role these organizations and agencies might pursue in the implementation process. The following organizations and agencies, in particular, should be consulted: UNICEF, UNEP, UNFPA, ILO, WHO, UNESCO, UNDP, UNIDO, UNV, UNIFEM and The World Bank. In particular, it was expected that specific comments and inputs relating to the Global Plans of Action of other relevant United Nations conferences would be received from United Nations organizations, funds and departments directly involved in the follow-up of those conferences.

24. All comments received by 15 September 1995 will be organized by the secretariat in accordance with the structure of the draft document for use by the Informal Drafting Group at its second inter-sessional meeting. The compilation of comments should be sent to members of the Informal Drafting Group by 25 September to give them adequate time for review.

25. The Informal Drafting Group also requested the secretariat to review the results of all relevant workshops and meetings organized for the preparatory process of Habitat II and bring to the attention of the Group conclusions pertinent to the drafting process. The Informal Drafting Group also urged the secretariat to consult with appropriate experts, with representative groups of NGOs, and with international networks of local authorities and their associations to obtain their comments.

26. The Informal Drafting Group requested the secretariat to undertake a study of agreements reached on previous initiatives with regard to human settlements and on financial commitments at other major international conferences.

27. The Group also requested the secretariat to prepare for the second inter-sessional meeting a report analysing the degree of consistency between the commitments contained in Part III of the present draft and the objectives and actions proposed in the revised draft of Part IV. The report should suggest ways in which the elements of the two parts might be harmonized.

28. The secretariat was requested to provide recommendations for specific textual changes reflecting, as appropriate, comments received from all sources. Special attention should be given to redundancies and inconsistencies with a view to reducing the size and improving the clarity of the overall document.

B. Arrangements for the second Inter-sessional Meeting

29. It was decided to hold a second inter-sessional meeting from 9 to 13 October 1995 at a venue to be decided by the secretariat in consultation with the Chairman, bearing in mind the financial implications.

30. The second meeting will review the revised draft in the light of comments received from Governments and others, and will prepare a final draft to be submitted by the Secretary-General of the Conference to the third session of the Preparatory Committee.

Report of the Informal Drafting Group of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) at its second inter-sessional meeting

Paris, 9-13 October 1995

INTRODUCTION

1. The meeting was convened pursuant to decision II/8 of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and the subsequent decision of the Informal Drafting Group at its first meeting to convene a second meeting from 9 to 13 October 1995.

I. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

A. Opening and duration of the session

2. The Informal Drafting Group, established pursuant to decision II/8 of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), held its second meeting at the International Conference Centre in Paris from 9 to 13 October 1995, at the invitation of the Government of France.

3. The meeting was opened by the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), Dr. W. N'Dow. It was chaired by Dr. Glynn A.C. Khonje, Chairman of the Informal Drafting Group.

B. Attendance

4. The following States were represented:

Austria
Bangladesh
Brazil
Chile
China
Cuba
Finland
France
Germany
India
Indonesia
Italy
Japan
Kenya
Netherlands
Norway
Pakistan
Philippines
Poland
Romania
Russian Federation
Senegal
Spain
Sudan
Sweden
Turkey
Uganda
United States of America
Uzbekistan
Venezuela
Zambia

5. The United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA), the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development (UNRISD), and the United Nations Volunteers (UNV) were represented.

6. The following specialized agencies were represented: the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD), the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO).

7. The European Commission and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) were represented.

8. Representatives of the G4+ Local Government Habitat II Steering Committee were present.

9. The following non-governmental organizations were represented: Alliance des Femmes pour la Démocratie, Environmental Liaison International, Habitat International Coalition (HIC), United Nations Environment and Development UK.

C. Adoption of the Agenda

10. At its first session on 9 October, the Informal Drafting Group adopted the following agenda:

1. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

2. Draft Global Plan of Action (The Habitat Agenda)

3. Other matters.

D. Organization of Work

11. The Informal Drafting Group established two working groups to discuss and review relevant parts of the draft Habitat Agenda. Working Group I was chaired by Dr. I.M. Ibrahim (Sudan) and Working Group II by Ms. O. Berghall (Finland).

12. Working Group I considered the following parts of the draft Habitat Agenda: Part I (Preamble) and Part II (Goals and Principles).

13. Working Group II considered Part III (Commitments).

14. Part IV (Global Plan of Action: Strategies for Implementation) was considered in plenary session, together with the draft reports of the two working groups.

E. Adoption of the report

15. The present report was adopted by the Informal Drafting Group at its final plenary session on 13 October 1995.

II. DISCUSSIONS

A. Plenary

1. General debate

16. The Informal Drafting Group considered a document entitled "The Habitat Agenda, as revised with comments and inputs received as of 15 September 1995". This document had been prepared by the secretariat pursuant to instructions from the Informal Drafting Group at its first meeting. It consisted of four parts. Parts I, II and III (Preamble, Goals and Principles, and Commitments) were the result of the deliberations of the Informal Drafting Group of Working Group II of the second substantive session of the Preparatory Committee held in Nairobi from 24 April to 5 May 1995 and of the comments received from

Governments and other reviewers worldwide. Part IV consisted of a draft strategy for implementation prepared by the Informal Drafting Group at its first inter-sessional meeting and revised on the basis of comments received from Governments and other reviewers worldwide.

17. The Informal Drafting Group, after extensive discussion and review, prepared new drafts of Part I (Preamble), Part II (Principles and Goals), and Part III (Commitments). It also revised Part IV (Global Plan of Action: Strategies for Implementation).

B. Reports of the Working Groups

18. The reports of the two working groups were considered in plenary session on 12 and 13 October 1995.

III. ACTION TAKEN

A. Preparation of documents

19. In accordance with decision II/8 of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), the secretariat will forward the revised draft of the Habitat Agenda in all official languages of the United Nations to all Member States as part of the substantive documentation for the third session of the Preparatory Committee.

20. The Informal Drafting Group requested the Secretary-General to present to the Preparatory Committee, at its third session to be held in New York from 5 to 16 February 1996, a report proposing suitable and cost-effective coordination and cooperation mechanisms for the full participation of United Nations agencies in the implementation of the Habitat Agenda, to be prepared in close consultation with all interested partners within the United Nations system.